

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 11-14 are pending. With this Amendment, claims 8-10 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 1 and 4 are amended and no new claims have been added.

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 1-7 and 11-14 are currently allowed.

I. Claims Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 1 and 4 because the claims contain certain informalities where the two claims are grammatically incorrect. Pursuant to the Examiner's suggestion, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 4 to correct the grammatical informalities, and obviate the objection.

II. Claims Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,484,315 to Ziese (hereinafter Ziese); and rejects claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA and Ziese as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of the reference entitled "Computer Networks" by Tanenbaum (hereinafter Tanenbaum). The cancellation of claims 8-10 renders moot the rejections thereto.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims are allowable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

SUDA ET AL. -- 10/720,536
Attorney Docket: 008312-0306943

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. D. Titcomb', is written over the printed name.

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